5th April 1955]

Member draws attention to the fact that chilli does not come under that category. It is not a perishable article. Probably on that account it has not been exempted."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Hon. Minister examine and see that no sales tax is imposed on essential food articles? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It is a very large question. That is not under consideration now."

Flood havoc in Cuddalore.

* 272 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Cuddalore is being subjected to havoc by floods every year; and

(*b*) if so, what measures the Government propose to take to avoid damages thereby to lives and properties of the people therein?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) No. Cuddalore is subjected to floods during the years when there are excessive rains lasting several days or a series of successive storm periods that cause floods.

" (*b*) A proposal for forming a system of flood banks to protect Cuddalore town from floods was initiated in 1947, but it was deferred in 1951 on account of the poor finances of the State at that time. The proposal has since been revived and the Government are awaiting a report from the Chief Engineer."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" வெள்ளத்தடுப்பு வேலையைக் கவனிப்பதற்கு மத்திய சர்க்கார் 10 கோடி ரூபாயில் ராஜாங்கங்களுக்கு ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட ரூபாய் எவ்வளவு என்று சொல்ல முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில் ஏற்படக்கூடிய வெள்ளத் தடுப்பு வேலையை உடனடியாகக் கவனிப்பதற்கு இரண்டாவது ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டத்தில் இதைச் சேர்க்க முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" This is a question being considered by this Government. The report of the Chief Engineer is awaited. The question of including it in the Five-Year Plan or otherwise will be considered afterwards."

Repairs to Tiruvendipuram anicut in South Arcot district.

* 273 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation in or about October 1954 in regard to repairs to the Tiruvendipuram anicut in South Arcot district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The requests in the petition have been examined in consultation with the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and the Collector.

It is proposed to provide screw-gearing shutters to the existing scour vents in the anicut and also construct five additional scour vents with screw-gearing arrangements. It is also proposed to excavate a leading channel in the river bed upstream of the scour vents and to construct a few groynes on the left side upstream of the point where there is a concave bend of the river, with a view to encourage accretion on the left side and to divert the flow on to the right. The Superintending Engineer has been instructed to carry out the above improvements expeditiously as it is expected that after these are carried out there will be sufficient heading up of water in front of the anicut."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாவை ஸர்பிளஸ் ஏரியா என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் சிதம்பரம் தாலூகாவைத் தவிர மற்ற இடங்களெல்லாம் வறண்ட பூமியாக இருப்பது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். ஆகையால் சிதம்பரத்திற்கு அருகாமையில் ஓடும் வெள்ளாற்றின் ஜலத்தை வடலூர் பக்கத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடிய பின்னலூர் வழியாகத் திருப்பி வறண்ட பூமியாகிய குறிஞ்சிப்பாடி, குள்ளஞ்சாவடி போன்ற இடங்களுக்கு நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி செய்து கொடுக்க முடியுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is a separate question. That has no bearing on the question that has been put here."

Utilization of the waters of the Palar river for irrigation purposes in North Arcot and Chingleput districts.

* 274 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the details of the agreement, if any, reached hitherto between the Governments of Madras and Mysore in the matter of letting out the waters of the Palar river for purposes of irrigation in North Arcot and Chingleput districts in Madras State;

(b) whether the Madras Government have investigated into the causes for the present fall in the freshes in the Palar river flowing into Madras territory, and if so, what they are;

(c) whether the Madras Government have taken up the matter with the Mysore Government, and if so, with what result and whether the Government will be pleased to place the correspondence on the table of the House;